

Snowshoe Trails

in the Hayward area



Hayward, Wisconsin is a gateway to a variety of wonderful snowshoeing trails that offer something for everyone, from beginners to advanced snowshoers. Here's a guide to these scenic trails. Enjoy!

To prepare for snowshoeing, follow these essential steps:

1. **GEAR:** Select snowshoes appropriate for your weight and terrain, wear waterproof and insulated boots, and use adjustable trekking poles for balance. Dress in moisture-wicking layers, a hat, gloves, and neck gaiter.
2. **Check Weather and Trail Conditions:** Review the weather forecast for updates on trail accessibility and conditions. Check trails on the HLVCB website at haywardlakes.com.
3. **Plan Your Route:** Choose a trail suitable for your skill level and have a map. Carry a compass or GPS.
4. **Pack Essential Supplies:** Bring high-energy snacks, water, a first-aid kit, multi-tool, emergency blanket, and a fully charged cell phone. Inform someone of your plans. These are deep-woods precautions.
5. **Understand Safety and Etiquette:** Leave nothing but footprints. Do not snowshoe on the ski trails or walk slowly and sideways if you have to cross groomed ski trails.

1. American Birkebeiner/Hatchery Creek Trails

- Length: Approximately 107 km (66 miles-out & back)
- Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult
- Highlights: Known for its beautiful forest scenery and being the venue for the largest cross-country ski race in North America.
- Distance from Hayward: About 2 miles east
- Directions: Head east on US-77 for approximately 2 miles. The trailhead is well-marked with signs for the Birkebeiner Trail. A trail map of the Birkebeiner Trail is posted at the warming hut at Hatchery Creek.

2. Hayward Area Memorial Hospital Trails

- Length: 7 km (4 miles)
- Difficulty: Easy
- Highlights: Conveniently located in Hayward with well-marked paths.
- Distance from Hayward: Located in Hayward
- Directions: In Hayward, these trails can be accessed from the trailhead at 15691 Hospital Road.

4. Henks Park Trails

- Length: 6 km (3.7 miles)
- Difficulty: Easy to Moderate
- Highlights: Nestled in a tranquil setting, Henks Park offers gentle terrain that is perfect for both beginners and those looking for a peaceful snowshoeing experience. The trails wind through open meadows and wooded areas, providing scenic views and a chance to spot local wildlife.
- Distance from Hayward: Approximately 6.5 miles south
- Directions: Head south on Hwy 27 for about 6.5 miles, then follow signs to Henks Park on the right. The trailhead is located at the main parking area.

5. Hayward Recreational Forest Trails

- Length: 5 km (3 miles)
- Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult
- Highlights: The Hayward Recreational forest offers trails through woods and rolling hills. The snowshoe trails are separate from the groomed ski trails. Follow posted maps. The forest provides a beautiful, secluded experience.
- Distance from Hayward: Located 2 miles west of Hayward.
- Directions: Proceed 2 miles west on County Hill Rd. Sign/entrance is easy to miss on the south/left side of the road.

6. Cable Natural History Museum Trails

- Length: Approximately 4.5 km (2.8 miles)
- Difficulty: Easy to Moderate
- Highlights: Includes educational interpretive signs and diverse ecosystems.
- Distance from Hayward: Around 18 miles northeast
- Directions: Head northeast on US-63 N and continue for 18 miles. Follow signs to the Cable Natural History Museum and the trails are located behind the building.

7. Mukwonago Ski Trail

- Length: 5 km (3.1 miles)
- Difficulty: Easy
- Highlights: Perfect for beginners, offering quiet loops through the forest. There are also ski trails interspersed. Do not snowshoe on the ski trails or walk slowly and sideways if you have to cross groomed ski trails.
- Distance from Hayward: About 17 miles east **(there is a \$5 fee to use the park. Box w/slot for money)**
- Directions: East on Hwy 77 for 18.2 miles. The parking lot is located on the right (south) side of the road just past the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest entrance sign.

8. Seeley Hills Trails

- Length: Varies (several interconnected loops) ranging from 5K - 16 K
- Difficulty: Moderate to difficult
- Highlights: Features rolling hills and well-maintained paths.
- Distance from Hayward: Roughly 8 miles north
- Directions: US HWY 63 to Seeley (10 miles N of Hayward). Turn east on County Hwy 00. Go ½ mile to Old 00. Turn right and continue 1.5 miles to parking lot on the right.

Happy snowshoeing!